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MANUAL OF BIBLICAL GEOGRAPHY.*

There are manuals and manuals. This is a *manual*. It is what it purports to be, a text-book. As such the work is wonderfully comprehensive, minute, and systematic. The book is a large one, but to bring before the eye scenes extending through twenty-five centuries and make them live in the gaze of the present is a great task.

The introduction is admirably calculated to arouse interest and enthusiasm in the study of Bible history, and the pages that follow supply the means for such study in most attractive and available style. The study begins with a chart of the entire period from the Deluge to 100 A. D., dividing and subdividing it into the more important epochs, noting the salient points of Bible history, the growth of the canon, and the landmarks of secular history. Then follow a general map of the Old Testament world, one showing the peopling of the earth by Noah's descendants, and a carefully distinguished physical map of Palestine. After this the Bible history is taken up in regular order and traced in detail, with a series of clearly outlined maps, from the journeyings of the patriarchs through the Exodus, the conquest, the division of Palestine, and the successive periods of the Judges and the Kings. In like manner, after successive views of the great powers of the world, the New Testament history is taken up in detail, through the Gospels, the apostolic journeys, and the geographical references, in Revelation. The work is done with a commendable thoroughness of detail. Repeated maps of the same parts are given to picture successive events. There are, for instance, eight different maps displaying the journeys of our Lord. A handsome colored panoramic view of Jerusalem adorns the middle of the book, and there are added elaborate plans of the temple of Solomon and of Herod, which form a most valuable feature.

So much for the maps; but the book being a text-book, and not a mere atlas, has accompanying the maps an outline history, appropriately divided, covering the entire course of events, including the connection between the two Testaments. Illustrations, diagrams, and smaller outline maps are added designed to fix in detail the topic under discussion. Comparison with familiar areas in our own country is freely used to give definiteness to the student's knowledge. The outlines for review at the end of the sections offer valuable hints for the practical application of the vast store of information furnished.

Elaborate as the book is with its 64 maps, 12 plans, 11 comparative diagrams, 4 charts and 41 engravings, it is nevertheless simple in plan and clear in detail.

The press-work is admirable; it is a beautiful piece of typography, and the excellent maps are engraved with most gratifying distinctness.

* **MANUAL OF BIBLICAL GEOGRAPHY.** A text-book on Bible history, for the use of students and teachers of the Bible, and for Sunday-school instruction. By Rev. J. L. Hurlbut, D. D. With an introduction by Rev. J. H. Vincent, D. D. Chicago: *Rand, McNally & Co.* 10½x12½, pp. 158. Price \$4.50. For sale by American Publication Society of Hebrew, Morgan Park, Ill.

One fault only is apparent. The book lacks a *complete* geographical index. A very full map of Palestine, the last in the book, is well indexed, as is also the descriptive matter, but in order to serve entirely the purpose of a scholar, there should be an index by which every identified site mentioned in the Bible could be readily found. This would make it as good a work of reference as it is a text-book.

Altogether this book is by far the best thing of the kind that we have ever seen. If it could be in the hands of every pastor and many members of churches, especially the young people, there would be an opportunity for an astonishing amount of biblical instruction. For a pastor to follow out the suggestion made in the introduction, and gather his people, as many as can come, for regular, systematic work with this text-book, would be to give to many young people almost a liberal education. The study with this help could be made as fascinating as much secular reading, and vastly more profitable. There are hundreds of pastors who are able, and who ought to do this.

TIMES OF ABRAHAM.*

"A strange book," said a gentleman to the reviewer, when asked for his estimate of the work under consideration. After a careful perusal, we echo this opinion. The aim of the book is to set forth the surroundings of Abraham in his life from his boyhood in Ur of the Chaldees, through his conflict with Chedorlamer and the allied kings. It deals with the Chaldæans, the Egyptians, the Elamites; it strives to present the result of the researches of late years, and to picture these peoples, their customs, habits and religions before the reader in order to give vividness to the background of Abraham's life. The author also aims to strengthen Christian faith by showing the wonderful confirmation given by monuments and sculptures, by tombs and palaces to the accounts found in the Word of God.

While the book gives evidence of wide reading, and much labor, and is to be decidedly commended for the references given to the authorities for the statements made; yet it appears that the works read have hardly been well digested. Gleanings have been made (wisely it may be said in most instances), which, however, give the book the appearance of a somewhat roughly made patch-work; that unity is lacking which is so necessary to the real effectiveness of any book. There is an unevenness about the work, that is peculiar; the last chapter on the Elamites being by far the best written and most interesting. It is difficult at times to get at the real bearing of the subject presented, the extracts are not systematically grouped, and one subject runs into another before the reader is aware of the change, which is confusing, and renders it hard to retain any vivid picture in the mind.

The book contains some most excellent plates in photo-tints, which are grouped together at the front of the work, and are referred to when occasion requires. The study of some of the Chaldæan and Egyptian heads represented here would be interesting and profitable. Typographically the volume is excellent, and to our mind the marginal references are a decided improvement over the usual method of elaborate foot-notes.

* STUDIES ON THE TIMES OF ABRAHAM. By Rev. H. G. Tomkins. London: S. Bagster & Sons. 7¼x9½. pp. xviii, 228. Price, \$5.00.